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# HATCH EARLY

Early Hatched Chicks  
Produce Best Results



AN EARLY HATCHED PULLET

ISSUED BY THE  
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

## **WHAT DOES EARLY HATCHING MEAN?**

Early hatching means chicks that are past the danger point before the hot weather sets in.

Early hatching means chicks less troubled by lice and disease.

Early hatching means more chicks raised.

Early hatching means a longer growing season.

Early hatching means better grown chicks.

Early hatching means higher prices for the surplus cockerels marketed as broilers.

Early hatching means well-matured pullets which begin to lay in the fall.

Early hatching means eggs from the pullets while the hens are molting.

Early hatching means eggs in the fall and winter, when prices are highest.

Early hatching means early maturing pullets that become broody earlier the following spring.

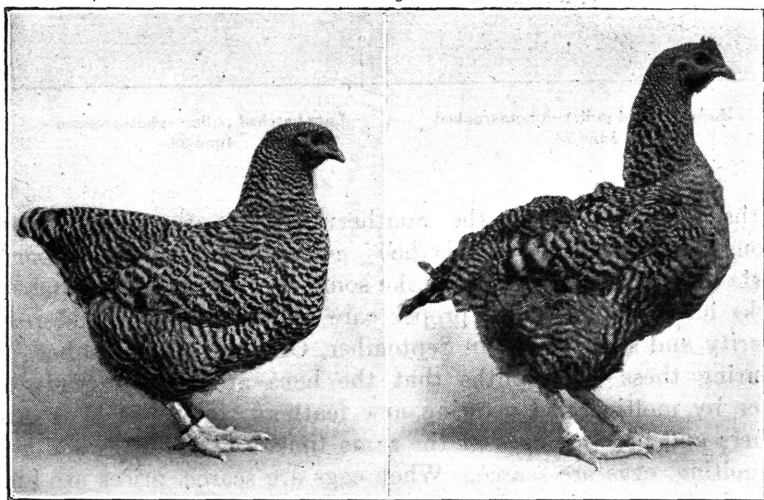
Early hatching means greater profit.

**HATCH AS EARLY IN THE SPRING AS  
CONDITIONS WILL PERMIT.**

# HATCH THE CHICKS EARLY.

## WHY HATCH EARLY?

**E**ARLY SPRING is nature's most favorable growing season. By hatching chicks early they will have the advantage of this favorable growing season and a longer growing period than those hatched during the late spring or early summer. Given the same feed, care, and attention, chicks hatched the first of March will weigh more when they are four months old than those hatched the first of May when they are four months old. The rate of growth of a chick is greater during the first four weeks of its life than at any other period.



Early hatched pullet laying in the fall.

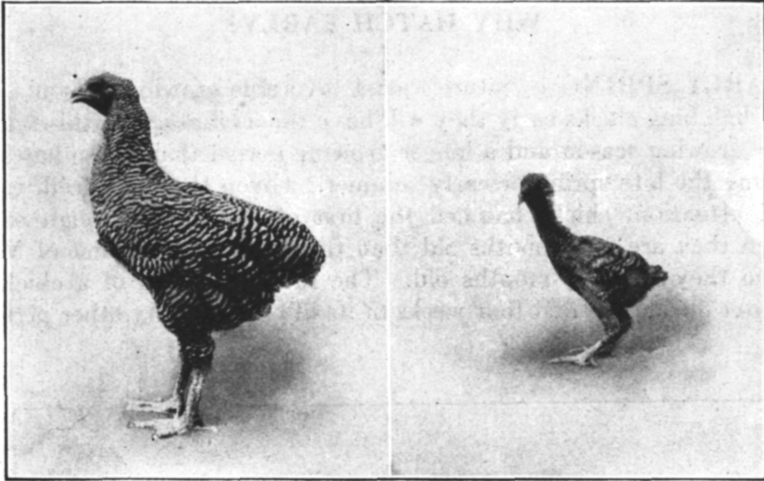
Hen molting in the fall and not laying.

Therefore, other conditions being equal, the more favorable the period the greater will be the rate of growth during that period. Consequently the early hatched chick, having the advantage of a more favorable growing season, makes greater gains during the first four weeks of its life than the chick that is hatched later in the spring.



## WHEN TO HATCH.

February, March, and April are the best months for hatching in the North Atlantic, North Middle Western, and Northwestern States, while January, February, and March will be found the best



Early hatched pullet—photographed  
June 26.

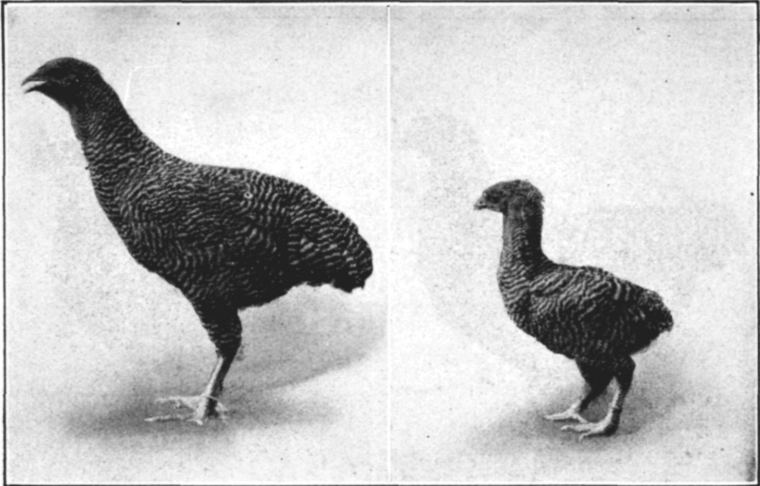
Late hatched pullet—photographed  
June 26.

months for hatching in the Southern and Southwestern States. If you do not have any broody hens, get several from a neighbor or elsewhere, use an incubator, or take some eggs to a nearby hatchery. Chicks hatched early with proper care and attention should reach maturity and start laying in September, October, or November. It is during these fall months that the hens are getting ready for winter by molting and growing new feathers. But few hens grow feathers and produce eggs at the same time. Therefore, when hens are molting, eggs are scarce. When eggs are scarce, prices are high. The solution then is to hatch early so as to have early maturing pullets that will produce eggs when hens are molting.

## DO NOT HATCH IN SUMMER.

Millions of late hatched chicks die each year as the result of being infested with lice, which are so prevalent in the summer. Then, too, hot weather retards the growth of chicks. Hatching should be done early so that the chicks will get a good start before hot weather arrives. Chicks hatched in the early spring are not so subject to lice

as those hatched during the hot weather. If for no other reason chicks should be hatched early so that their growth will not be interrupted by the hot weather and the presence of lice. Late hatched pullets are usually the ones that become infested with roup in the fall, thereby endangering the rest of the flock.



Early hatched pullet—photographed  
July 26.

Late hatched pullet—photographed  
July 26.

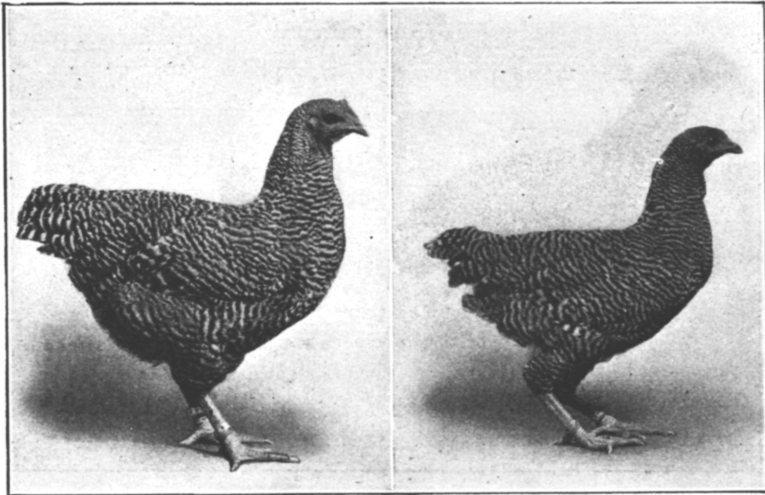
### EARLY BROILERS BRING HIGH PRICES.

Many farmers realize considerable money each spring from the sale of cockerels as broilers, the price of which is usually governed by the size when sold and the time marketed. Thus it would seem that in order to increase the amount of money from the sale of broilers and friers, early hatching should be employed so as to have a marketable sized cockerel early in the spring when prices are highest.

Market all cockerels not wanted as breeders at as early a date as possible. Never market good, strong, vigorous pullets, as these will make your early layers. Many farmers who depend entirely on hens for hatching find it difficult to hatch early for the reason that but few of their hens go broody early enough in the spring. This difficulty may be overcome when early hatching is once practiced, as early-hatched pullets are the ones that go broody early the following spring. By hatching early the farmer is enabled to give his full time to other spring work, the task of caring for hens and incubators being out of the way.

## EARLY HATCHED PULLETS PRODUCE MORE EGGS.

Following is a comparison of the egg production of the earlier and later hatched Rhode Island Red pullets at the Government Poultry Farm, Beltsville, Maryland, for the years 1916 and 1917. The comparison is between pullets hatched before April 1 and those hatched April 15 or later each year. It should be borne in mind that pullets



Early hatched pullet—photographed September 26. Mature—laying.

Late hatched pullet—photographed September 26. Immature—not laying.

hatched in April are not considered very late hatched for the conditions at this farm, but the records of very few pullets hatched later than this are available, as the effort is made to complete the hatching as near May 1 as possible. The records of pullets hatched May 1 or later are given separately also, as well as being included in those hatched April 15 or later, but the number of these in 1917 is too small to be very significant.

Pullets hatched 1916.			Pullets hatched 1917.		
Number pullets.	Time hatched.	Average egg yield to Nov. 1, 1917.	Number pullets.	Time hatched.	Average egg yield to Nov. 1, 1918.
29	Before April 1	163.8	61	Before April 1	134.9
34	April 15 or later	127.4	22	April 15 or after	123.7
20	After May 1	125.3	5	May 1	110.6

While the number of pullets above referred to is not large, yet in every instance the earlier hatched specimens have proven to be the best producers, which is but further evidence of the advisability of early hatching.

# HATCHING RECORD

	DATE SET	DUE TO HATCH
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		

By keeping a record of all hens set and the date they are due to hatch you will be enabled to give the prompt attention necessary at the hatching period. You will also be able to note the more rapid growth of the early hatched chicks as compared with the late hatched.



## **NINE ESSENTIAL FEATURES FOR PROFITABLE POULTRY KEEPING.**

### **1—KEEP BETTER POULTRY:**

Standard-bred poultry increases production and improves the quality.

### **2—SELECT VIGOROUS BREEDERS:**

Healthy, vigorous breeders produce strong chicks.

### **3—HATCH THE CHICKS EARLY:**

Early hatched pullets produce fall and winter eggs.

### **4—PRESERVE EGGS FOR HOME USE:**

Preserve when cheap for use when high in price.

### **5—PRODUCE INFERTILE EGGS:**

They keep better. Fertile eggs are necessary for hatching only.

### **6—CULL THE FLOCKS:**

Eliminate unprofitable producers and reduce the feed bill.

### **7—KEEP A BACK-YARD FLOCK:**

A small flock in the back yard will supply the family table.

### **8—GROW YOUR POULTRY FEED:**

Home-grown feed insures an available and economical supply.

### **9—EAT MORE POULTRY AND EGGS:**

By eating poultry and eggs more freely you will conserve the meat supply.